

## ABSTRACT

Methods, systems, and computer program products for automatically establishing an affinity for messages destined for a particular server application in a computing network, where that network performs workload balancing. A server application may specify (for example, using configuration values) that concurrent connection request messages from clients are to be routed to the same application instance, thereby bypassing normal workload balancing (as well as port balancing) that would otherwise occur among multiple application instances. This is advantageous for applications in which multiple concurrent requests from a particular client pertain to the same client operation (such as requests to deliver multiple elements of a single Web page). Access to server application code is not required.

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